

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the previous Abstract with the following redlined Abstract:

A method of ~~forming an executable program from linking~~ a plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, each object code module having section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of attributes associated therewith, wherein ~~said the~~ relocation instructions ~~includes~~ include a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying a symbol and an attribute field identifying a symbol attribute associated with ~~said the~~ identified symbol to be retrieved, the method ~~includes~~ including reading at least one relocation instruction from ~~said the~~ set of ~~relocations instruction~~ relocation instructions and where ~~said the~~ relocation instruction is a data retrieval instruction, determining the symbol identified by the symbol field and retrieving one of ~~said the~~ plurality of symbol attributes associated with ~~said the~~ symbol in dependence on the contents of the symbol attributes field of ~~said the~~ instruction.